

I would like for this issue of morse examinations to trigger within the FCC and Amateur community a different way of thinking about the three Amateur class licenses. What I would like to see is the Technician license remain as it is; the General class written would also remain as it is, but the morse exam would be eliminated. Then I would like the Extra class written exam to be made substantially harder, and also I would like for the Extra Class license to retain a requirement to pass a 5 WPM code test.

In line with these recommendations, I'd like to see the General Class privileges reduced a bit, and the Extra class privileges remain the same (full privileges). My goal with this is to enable those potential hams who want to get on HF without much studying, that ability. However, those who are willing to study hard would be able to get additional privileges for their efforts; namely additional bandwidth that is reserved only for the use of Extra Class operators.

As it stands now, many people don't really study the theory behind the exam questions. Instead they just memorize the answers. They do that even for the Extra exams. General class holders get almost all operating privileges. Extras get only a little extra operating spectrum for their efforts.

So, let's make the Extra Class license tough and let's include the morse exam. Then reward the efforts of the relative few who are actually willing to learn. Give the Extra Class operators perhaps 100 KHz in each band; space reserved for them only.

Reserving space for the more knowledgeable Extra Class holders would also give them some quieter operating spectrum in which they can experiment.

Finally, keeping the morse exam alive will encourage the use of the one mode that has the attributes of getting through most of the time, when band conditions are poor, and with the least amount of capital outlay, even with low power or poor antennas.

Please keep the morse exam for the Extra Class ticket.